

App. No. 10/027620
Amd. Dated December 23, 2003
Office Action Faxed October 23, 2003

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted further to the request for remailing filed on November 7, 2003, and constitutes a response to the Office Action originally dated March 28, 2003 but not received until the October 23, 2003 fax transmission from the Examiner.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Claim 1 is hereby amended. Claims 2 and 5 have canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New independent claim 9 incorporates claim 1 and allowable claim 5. New dependent claim 10 tracks claim 8. No new matter has been added. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-10 are pending.

Claims 1 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Okuyama et al (US 5,470,808) and Okuyama et al (US 5,356,843), each taken alone. Claim 1 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 2. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions or concerns regarding this communication can be

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directed to the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at
(612)371.5237.

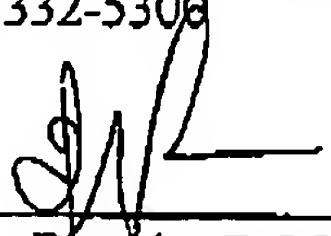


Dated: December 23, 2003

DPM:smm

Respectfully submitted,

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By 
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